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AUDENSHAW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE STATE OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH OF AUDENSHAW  
1948



HAZEL I. ASHFORD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*(including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector)*



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## Public Health Committee, 1948-9

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Councillor W. BARNES (Chairman)

„ J. E. SMETHURST  
„ E. C. HEWITT, J.P.  
„ R. NEWTON, J.P.  
„ A. H. ROTHWELL  
„ A. GRATTIDGE  
„ T. GREENHALGH  
„ W. McEVOY  
„ S. SMITH  
„ Mrs. L. BARNES, J.P.  
„ J. R. GREGORY  
„ J. B. MIDGLEY

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## Staff

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Medical Officer of Health :

HAZEL I. ASHFORD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector :

R. L. R. BESWICK, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk : Mr. W. K. Gudger.

## Statistical.

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The following are the General Statistics for the year 1948

Area of District, in acres	...	...	...	...	...	1241
Population (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	8460
Estimated Population at the middle of 1948, supplied by the Registrar General	...	...	...	...	...	12,650
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	2,207
Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1948, in accordance with the Rate Books...	...	...	...	...	...	4,180
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£77,404
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£305.0569

## Vital Statistics

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### BIRTHS.

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births.....	Legitimate ...	183	96	87
	Illegitimate ...	11	7	4
		<hr/> 194	<hr/> 103	<hr/> 91
		Total	M.	F.
Still births ...	Legitimate ...	8	4	4
	Illegitimate...	1	—	1
		<hr/> 9	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 5

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population .....15.3

Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (Live & Still) Births..... 44

### DEATHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths.....	150	86	64

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population was  
11.8 (Crude Death Rate).

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis .....	—
Other Puerperal causes .....	—

### DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 live births .....	41
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	38
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	90

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	22
„ Measles (all ages).....	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)...	1
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	Nil

## TABLES.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 give a comparison of the birth and death rates with previous years, and with the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

Table 4 classifies the deaths under certain heads.

Tables 5 and 6 classify and compare the deaths in certain diseases during the last 10 years.

TABLE No. 1.  
VITAL STATISTICS. Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

Mean of 5 years	Live Birth rate	Death rate	Tuberculosis of Respira- tory system	Death rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births
					per 1,000 live births	per 1,000 total (live & still) births	
1943-1947 ...	17.9	12.1	0.34	1.89	3.83	3.71	48
Year 1947 ...	18.4	12.6	0.32	2.26	Nil	Nil	61
Year 1948 ...	15.3	11.8	0.23	1.73	Nil	Nil	41
Increase or decrease in 1948 on 5 years' average, 1943-47							
	-2.6	- 0.3	-0.11	-0.16	-3.83	-3.71	- 7
Previous Year ...	-3.1	- 0.8	- 0.09	-0.53	Nil	Nil	-20



TABLE No. 2.

Comparison of Local Birth and Death Rates with those of  
England and Wales.

Year	Popu- lation	Birth Rate		Death Rate	
		Local	England and Wales	Local	England and Wales
1938	... 11,870	14.90	15.10	10.70	11.60
1939	... 11,880	13.30	15.00	10.90	12.10
1940	... 11,840	14.70	14.60	11.00	14.30
1941	... 11,810	16.20	14.20	12.30	12.90
1942	... 11,570	10.80	15.80	12.10	11.60
1943	... 11,810	17.70	16.50	10.84	12.10
1944	... 11,500	18.00	17.60	12.26	11.60
1945	... 11,530	17.70	16.10	12.70	11.40
1946	... 12,150	17.60	19.10	12.10	11.50
1947	... 12,340	18.40	20.50	12.60	12.00
Average of 10 years		15.93	16.45	11.75	12.11
1948	... 12,650	15.30	17.90	11.80	10.80

TABLE No. 3. Infant Mortality.

Year	No. of Deaths	Rate of Deaths per 1,000 Births		Rate of Deaths per 1,000 Births	
		Local	England and Wales	Local	England and Wales
1938	..... 10	.....	56	.....	53
1939	..... 6	.....	37	.....	50
1940	..... 5	.....	28	.....	50
1941	..... 10	.....	52	.....	58
1942	..... 5	.....	22	.....	49
1943	..... 6	.....	56.6	.....	49
1944	..... 9	.....	43.5	.....	46
1945	..... 7	.....	34	.....	46
1946	..... 10	.....	46	.....	43
1947	..... 14	.....	61	.....	41
Average of 10 years		8.2	43.61	.....	48.5
1948	..... 8	.....	41	.....	34

TABLE No. 4. Causes of Death during 1948.

	Total	Males	Females
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	1	1	—
Measles .....	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever.....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	1	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis .....	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases .....	3	3	—
Influenza .....	—	—	—
Acute polio-myelitis and polio encephalitis .....	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease .....	22	10	12
Diabetes .....	1	—	1
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	17	11	6
Heart disease .....	40	22	18
Other circulatory diseases .....	1	1	—
Bronchitis .....	15	9	6
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	2	1	1
Other respiratory diseases .....	5	4	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum...	—	—	—
Diarrhœa, under 2 years .....	—	—	—
Appendicitis .....	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases .....	2	1	1
Nephritis .....	2	2	—
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes.....	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ...	7	3	4
Suicide .....	4	3	1
Road traffic accidents .....	2	1	1
Other violent causes .....	2	1	1
All other causes .....	20	12	8
	150	86	64

TABLE No. 5.

Number of deaths from certain diseases during last ten years.

Disease	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Measles .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Tuberculosis...	4	5	9	4	3	3	6	10	10	9
Cancer .....	22	28	30	20	20	15	17	29	15	12
Influenza .....	—	1	1	—	3	5	—	1	3	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	4	3	6	6	7	6	6	7	4
Bronchitis ...	15	10	2	13	9	10	3	10	9	3
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) .....	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
Enteric Fever.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE No. 6

## Tuberculosis Death Rate.

Year	Rate per 1000	Estimated Population
1938	.....	0.58
1939	.....	0.67
1940	.....	0.59
1941	.....	0.85
1942	.....	0.52
1943	.....	0.26
1944	.....	0.26
1945	.....	0.35
1946	.....	0.74
1947	.....	0.40
Average of ten years, ...		0.52
1948	.....	0.31

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No epidemic of infectious disease occurred throughout the year. It is gratifying to note that no deaths occurred as a result of Diphtheria.

Cases of notifiable infectious disease are, in the first place, investigated by the Sanitary Inspector. A descriptive leaflet dealing with the principles of current disinfection is left with the householder, together with a "free-from-infection" stamp-addressed postcard. On the recovery of the patient the Medical Practitioner completes and returns this card to the Health Department and terminal disinfection of the room(s) occupied by the patient is then arranged. All such rooms are sealed and disinfected with formaldehyde gas. Contacts of the disease are maintained under close supervision where necessary.

Twenty-two houses were disinfected during the year.

Where suitable isolation and nursing facilities have existed, arrangements have been made for the home nursing of Scarlet Fever cases. In general, this system has functioned satisfactorily.

Ten patients were admitted to Infectious Diseases Hospitals from the Audenshaw area. The causal diseases in hospitals were as under:—

Hyde Infectious Diseases Hospital—Scarlet Fever .....	6
Diphtheria .....	1
Stockport Inf. Diseases Hospital—Scarlet Fever .....	1
Monsall Inf. Diseases Hospital—Puerperal pyrexia ...	1
Ashton-u-Lyne District Infirmary—Pneumonia .....	1

TABLE No. 7.

Immunisation state of child population as at 31st Dec. 1948

	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 and under 15 yrs. of age	Total num- ber under 15 years of age
No. of the child population who have now been protected by artificial immuni- sation (i.e., up to 31st December, 1948)	457	1225	1682
Percentage of the number so protected in relation to the total number of child- ren in the age group ... ..	43.35%	81.01%	65.54%

Number of Children Immunised at School Clinic during  
1948 and who completed Immunisation.

Under 5 years—168. 5 years and over—18. Total—186

TABLE No. 8.  
TUBERCULOSIS.  
New Cases and Deaths during 1948.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	.....				.....			
1—5	.....				.....			
5—10	.....				.....			
10—15	.....				.....			
15—20	.....	1			.....			
20—25	.....	2			.....			
25—35	.....	2			.....	1	1	
35—45	.....	1		1	.....			1
45—55	.....				.....			
55—65	.....	1	1		.....	1		
65 and upwards	.....				.....			
Totals	1	7	0	1	1	2	0	1
	8		1		3		1	

The tuberculosis notification system has worked effectively and no compulsion has been necessitated in the removal to hospital of any tuberculous person.

No evidence has been forthcoming of persons suffering from active tuberculosis carrying on employment in the milk production or distribution trades.

Disinfection is arranged where necessary.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are dealt with at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and also at the Pathological Department of the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary. This service also applies to private practitioners who may forward specimens direct to the laboratories. Swabs and other material are obtainable from the laboratories concerned and from this department.

Fifty-five specimens have been examined under this scheme, fifty-two in relation to suspected diphtheria cases and three sputum tests for queried pulmonary tuberculosis were also arranged. All were negative.

TABLE No. 9. Notifiable Diseases During the Year 1948. (Other than Tuberculosis.)

Disease	Total Cases all ages.	Under										55 & to Tot'l Hosp't deaths	Total Deaths Cases in H'p'l rem'd
		1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45		
Scarlet Fever .....	28				2	5	14	5	1		1		7
Measles .....	153	6	12	11	28	21	73	1		1			
Whooping Cough .....	62	9	5	5	12	11	20					1	
Diphtheria .....	1						1						1
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	6						1		1	1	2	1	2
Erysipelas .....	1									1			
Dysentery...													
Puerperal Pyrexia	1								1				1
Total...	252	15	17	16	42	37	109	6	2	1	3	3	1
													3
													10

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is supplied by the Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Water Board. The water supply is adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality. All of the water supplied is subjected to gravity and pressure filtration with subsequent sterilisation by ozonisation methods.

No sample were taken by this Authority during the year, but routine samples were taken by the Joint Water Board at various parts of the supply system in Audenshaw. The results are as follows:—

Type of Examination	No.		Result
	Taken	Excellent	Satisfactory
Bacteriological	22	21	1
Chemical Analysis	2	Both quite satisfactory.	

No raw water is supplied to the district and no evidence exists of plumbo-solvency in the water supplied.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Work on the new sewerage scheme was progressive throughout the year.

Numerous drains were cleansed and repaired under the supervision of this Department. Preliminary testing was carried out in all cases where the possibility of defects existed.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Closet accommodation existing within the district at 31st December, 1948, may be categorised as follows:—

Pail closets	22
Waste-water closets	1,323
Modern water-closets	3,127

Several of the above-mentioned pail closets are situate at farms and houses where sewer facilities are not within a reasonable distance. This mode of disposal is also employed at certain temporary building sites.



A proportion almost amounting to one-third of the houses in the district is provided with waste-water closet accommodation. At the present time, the nuisance value of such a system by far outweighs its advantages. The waste-water closet was originally considered a sanitary and economical type of appliance, but it is now extremely difficult, at short notice, to obtain replacements. The work of clearance, in the event of chokage or disrepair, is usually more involved and distasteful than in the case of the modern water-closet.

Every effort is made to effect conversion by persuasive means but the present-day cost to an owner is rarely less than a sum of £27 to £30 per closet.

It is to be hoped that the economic obstacles will eventually diminish sufficiently to permit of conversions on a district basis, subject to some financial assistance being rendered either by Central or Local Authority.

Three waste-water closets were converted to fresh-water closets during the year.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE.

### SCAVENGING.

There are approximately thirteen miles of roads within the district, excluding unadopted roads, streets and passages.

The district is divided into three working areas and these are swept on the "beat" system. A mechanical gully-emptyer is hired periodically from the Denton Urban District Council for the purpose of cleansing all street gullies.

### REFUSE COLLECTION.

No privy-middens or ash-pits exist, as such, within the district. An approximate number of 4,250 movable dustbins requires regular emptying.

Collection of refuse is carried out by two vehicles, one a twenty-horsepower Bedford and the other a Karrier refuse collector, each being manned by a team consisting of five men and a driver. The Department's vehicles covered a total distance of 8,956 miles during the twelve months.

It is to be regretted that collection of refuse throughout the year has not always attained a high standard of regularity. Sickness, the hiring of temporary labour (not always suitable for the work), the constant removal from the road of one vehicle, the hiring of other vehicles and the inferior fuel consumed in domestic fire-grates have all contributed in some measure to this state of affairs.

Approximately 3,990 tons of refuse were collected over the twelve-monthly period.

DUSTBIN STOCK—Period 1st January, 1948, to  
31st December, 1948.

Item	Quantity Sold	Cost to Authority			Establishment Charges			Total		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Dustbins	230	227	13	7	25	9	9	253	3	4
Sanitary Pails ..	5	5	15	0	0	14	7	6	9	7
Total	235	£233	8	7	£26	4	4	£259	12	11

## REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping methods, the tip being situate on low-lying ground in the Shepley Road area. Eventually, it is anticipated, this site will form a useful adjunct to the nearby Council recreation ground.

A considerable amount of material is sorted and salvaged from the refuse on its arrival at the tip.

Tipping of this type, when subjected to control by competent personnel, can be compared favourably with any other type of refuse disposal and any possibility of nuisance is effectively minimised under these conditions.

## SALVAGE.

During the twelve months commencing 1st January, 1948, a total sum of £930 was realised from the sale of salvage. The weights of the different materials are as under:—

	tons		tons
Waste paper .....	111.9	Metal .....	2.4
Rags .....	4.28	Kitchen waste .....	26.6
Sacking .....	4.26		

Waste-paper merchants are becoming increasingly disinclined to accept paper which is in a very dirty condition. For this reason it has been necessary on occasions to arrange for the destruction of quantities of paper recovered from dustbins.

Much appreciation is due to those salvage stewards and others who have contributed in no small measure to the year's high collection of waste-paper.

## SNOW CLEARANCE AND FROST PRECAUTIONS.

In order to avoid dislocation of other essential services, a skeleton staff is employed, together with one vehicle, to deal with light snowfalls and frosted roads. A trailer gritting machine is used to distribute anti-frost materials.

In the event of emergency all available personnel from the Health and Highways Departments are directed to the work. A rota system is in operation, this ensuring that men are prepared for duty at all hours of the day and night. A copy of this rota, together with instructions on how to deal with differing weather conditions, has been circulated to every man.

## PETROL ISSUES.

2,874 gallons of petrol were issued to the undermentioned Council Departments and other bodies during the year:—

Gallons

Public Health Department—	
Refuse Collection Services .....	1,482
Gully Cleansing .....	207
Highways Department—General .....	790
Cemetery and Parks Department .....	41
Lancashire County Council—	
Education Committee (Playing Fields) .....	210
School Meals Services .....	85
Audenshaw Grammar School .....	59

## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

No licences were issued during the year in respect of camping sites.

Constant vigilance has been maintained against the establishment of unsuitable living-structures and vans within the area. In an inland urban district of this type there is a tendency for pedlars and similar persons to settle on any vacant site for periods extending from weeks to months. The sites, usually selected without reference to the Local Authority, often fall far short of the authority's sanitary requirements. The settlement, for indefinite periods, of movable structures and vans on such sites is therefore to be discouraged.

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Twenty-four half-hourly observations of factory chimneys were made during the year and written intimations were served upon the occupiers of three factories.

In the absence of statutory bye-laws, controlling the density, colour or content of smoke emissions, a tentative standard is employed, this being based upon a permissible maximum of three minutes dense smoke per half-hourly observation.

Although the fuel position has eased somewhat, supplies of good smokeless fuel are not yet readily available for all industrial plants in the area and some difficulty may still be encountered in modernising certain out-of-date installations. Yet, in spite of the conditions existing, it is felt that in certain instances too much emphasis is now placed on these deficiencies and that this excuse may too readily be employed as a cover for inefficient stoking and maintenance.

Courses in "Boilerhouse Practice" are held yearly at the Manchester Municipal College of Technology and there would appear to be no reason why employers should not encourage a one hundred per cent attendance of stoking personnel at these courses of instruction. It would appear difficult for many people, including managements, to appreciate that stoking and firing are essentially skilled tasks resulting, under favourable circumstances, in the simultaneous reduction of atmospheric pollution and fuel wastage.

Of prime importance is smoke emission from domestic chimneys, if anything, equally and possibly more deleterious in its effect than emissions from industrial chimneys. The provision of smokeless fuel-burning appliances in all houses of new construction and even in existing dwellings should assist in mitigating the wholesale pollution of the atmosphere.

## ERADICATION OF INSECT PESTS.

Six houses were found to be subject to bed-bug infestation during the year.

It is the policy of the Health Department to encourage the adoption and maintenance of suitable treatments by the occupiers themselves. In cases where the occupiers showed themselves indifferent to their surroundings and the welfare of their neighbours it was found possible to effect improvement by educative and persuasive means. Occupiers are always advised to institute routine "soap and water" cleansing as a part of the disinfestation programme.

Complaints in respect of cockroach and silverfish infestations were received during the year and the necessary advice was tendered to all concerned. The Department was able to obtain quantities of ex-Government D.D.T. solution during the year. It was found to be extremely satisfactory in use and members of the public are now in a position to obtain the insecticide at a very cheap rate.

## FILTHY PREMISES.

The occupiers of four dwellings were cautioned verbally with regard to the unsatisfactory condition of their premises. No legal action was necessitated in these particular cases and reasonable progress was made by the persons concerned under the constant observation of your officers.

Where the welfare of children is involved, steps are always taken to acquaint the local officer of the N.S.P.C.C. with the facts.

## RODENT CONTROL.

The Authority has the services of one full-time rodent operative.

The original house-to-house survey was completed during the early part of the year. Other surveys will be continued as and when practicable.

Two complete surveys of the sewers have been carried out during the year, such surveys including the baiting of all manholes and poisoning, where necessary.

One hundred and seventy-five premises were found to be infested with rats or mice and were dealt with by approved baiting or trapping methods. Works carried out in business or trade premises were charged to the owners or occupiers concerned.

Private dwellings treated .....	144
Business premises treated .....	24
Local Authority premises treated .....	7

## SCHOOLS.

There are three elementary schools, one secondary and one grammar school within the district.

In general, conditions are fair, although the closet accommodation at two schools is not of a high standard.

Mains water is available at all schools.

## FACTORIES.

Cases of unsatisfactory conditions which were notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories were all investigated and the necessary intimation of requirements given verbally or in writing. Routine inspections were also made and action taken where necessary.

Fifty-five visits were made to outworkers' premises.

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

## Part I of the Act.

### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health. (Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	No. on Register.	Number of Inspec- tions.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers prose- cuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities .....	49	34	1	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	16	22	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total .....	65	56	3	—

### 2. Cases in which defects were found.

	Cases found.	Number of Cases remedied.	Prose- cutions instituted.
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	3	3	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .....	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—			
(a) Insufficient .....	1	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	8	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences (not includ- ing offences relating to homework) .....	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total .....	12	13	—



Part VIII of the Act.  
(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111	
	No. of outworkers in Aug. list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) (3).	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4).	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5).	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6).	Notices served (7).  Prosecutions (8).
Wearing apparel, making, etc....	10	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons .....	1	—	—	—	—
Total .....	11	—	—	—	—

## WORKPLACES.

Routine inspections were carried out during the year.

## HOUSING.

### *Dangerous Walls, Structures, etc.*

Information was submitted to the Surveyor in respect of twenty-three premises.

### *Housing Repairs and Conditions.*

The year has proved a most difficult period as far as property repairs are concerned. Licensing restrictions have been eased somewhat and more material has been freed, but the problem has become essentially an economic one.

Every effort has been made to obtain some reasonable standard of fitness in premises from which complaints have been received. In certain cases the procedure has endured over periods of months before the necessary works have been achieved. The high costs and existing standards of building labour have resulted frequently in the execution of indifferent works with a resultant loss of durability.



The question of a comprehensive slum-clearance programme will need to be given very great consideration at some future date. It is realised that the financial aspect of rehousing will place a tremendous burden on local authorities and some assistance should therefore be forthcoming from central government level, as and when the time is opportune.

In some instances, the only suitable alternative to demolition is thorough reconditioning and this is now a task beyond the financial ability of the average owner. The rents of pre-1914 houses, especially, are the subject of restrictive control and the position is such with this type of house that the renewal of a dustbin alone may account in full for three or four weeks' gross rental. Under normal circumstances an owner may claim a fixed increase in rent only when he has carried out works in the nature of "improvements." Routine repair work or reconditioning, which may result in expending many times the cost of one or more "improvements," does not necessarily fall within the latter category. Legislation should be amended to bring the rentals of repairable houses more into line with present-day costs and wages, subject to reconditioning work and some modernisation being effected to the satisfaction of the Local Authority, any agreement between Authority and owner incorporating a proviso related to the future life of the premises in terms of years.

## STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ).....	17
(1) By the Local Authority .....	16
(2) By other Local Authorities .....	nil
(3) By other bodies and persons ... ..	1
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts	
(1) By the Local Authority, included under (a) (1) above .....	nil
(2) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (3) above).....	nil

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	177
(b) Number of inspections made for purpose .....	705
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	3
(b) Number of inspections made for purpose .....	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	6
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	162

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice :

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers... 95

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :
  - (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
    1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..nil
    2. Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
      - (a) By Owners... ..nil
      - (b) By Local Authority... ..nil
    - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
      1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..36
      2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
        - (a) By Owners ... ..23
        - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...nil
      - (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
        1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..nil
        2. Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... ..nil
        - (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
          1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..nil
          2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..nil

#### HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

A new house-to-house survey would be necessary in order to ascertain the exact state of overcrowding within the district.

The number of overcrowded houses, obtained from application forms received for Council houses is approximately one hundred and seventy-five. Fifty-three cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year.

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

Slaughtering for the district is carried out at Stockport No. 2 Abattoir. This slaughterhouse operates on a regional basis and caters for the following districts:—Audenshaw, Denton, Hyde Borough, Marple and Romiley. The meat inspection services are operated on a rota system by the inspectorate concerned.

## CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED BY THIS AUTHORITY'S INSPECTOR.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
1. No. killed (if known)...	490	293	371	2,430	—
2. No. inspected .....	490	293	371	2,430	—
3. All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
(a) Whole carcases con- demned .....	1	1	2	9	—
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	338		—	242	—
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuber- culosis .....	43.42		0.536	9.9	—
4. Tuberculosis only—					
(a) Whole carcases con- demned .....	4	26	5	—	—
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	237		—	—	—
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis .....	34.11		1.34	—	—

Separate percentages cannot, unfortunately, be given in respect of the two columns headed "Cattle other than Cows" and "Cows." The additional clerical work involved in obtaining authentic and separately detailed figures of this kind would, in the case of the inspector working alone at times of heavy killing, seriously prejudice the standard of inspection and interfere unduly with other work outside the sphere of meat inspection. The primary object, therefore, has been to maintain a rigid standard of examination and an account of such detail as is considered absolutely essential.

However, it can be stated quite definitely, in relation to items 4(b) and (c) that a much higher percentage and number of cows demonstrated tuberculous infection than did the other types of cattle. The proportion of cows condemned on the grounds of generalised tuberculosis amounted to 8.87 per cent. of all those examined.

All the calves condemned under item 4(a) were affected with congenital tuberculosis and all steps were taken, in conjunction with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, to trace the dams concerned. Any cows so discovered would normally be slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order.

The total amount of meat condemned by your officer at the slaughterhouse was 15 tons 5 cwt.

## ICE-CREAM.

### *Registration of Premises.*

During the year, seven premises were registered for the sale and manufacture of ice-cream and one establishment for the sale only of ice-cream.

Existing legislation, although adequate in many respects, has left the decision as to exact standards required in ice-cream premises entirely in the hands of the Local Authority and its officers. The necessity for ensuring a high standard of hygiene, consistent with economy and the varying circumstances and planning of individual premises, has indeed required much serious consideration. At the times of the original inspections, the occupiers of three ice-cream manufacturing premises were found to be using their kitchens and domestic sinks for ice-cream manufacturing purposes. The

provision of separate sinks, constant hot and cold water supply, storage cabinets, soap, towels, nail-brushes, etc., were advocated in most instances and every effort was made to secure that the processing of ice-cream should be carried out in some portion of the premises set aside for that exclusive purpose. It is pleasing to record that the Department was not faced with any difficulty in obtaining the execution of the necessary works and alterations.

Co-operation is maintained in conjunction with all local traders and the Ice-Cream Alliance and details of legislative changes, trade developments and other matters of interest are always forwarded from the Department to all concerned.

One fact deserving of mention is concerned with the inability of the Local Authority to register vehicles, carts, barrows, etc., from which ice-cream is sold. Sections 13 and 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, specify respectively the controls permissible over rooms used for the preparation and storage, etc., of food intended for sale and the conditions under which premises may be registered for the sale, etc., of ice-cream and prepared food. As carts, vehicles and barrows do not enter within the definitions of "rooms" and "premises," legal control over the former is non-existent within the meaning of these sections of the Act. In comparison, Section 16 of the Act requires the adequate and conspicuous labelling of all such vehicles with the names and addresses of the dealers. It need hardly be stated that this anomaly has been the cause of extreme dissatisfaction on the part of local shopkeepers trading in the commodity.

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, apply to all types and circumstances of manufacture and sale but are lacking in that they do not specifically authorise a local authority to require, for example, an adequate supply of clean hot and cold water in vehicles for ablution purposes, as can be enforced under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and allied enactments in respect of premises used for food preparation, storage and sale.

#### *Sampling of Ice-Cream.*

The following samples were taken during the year:—

Ice-cream .....	17
Ice-lollipops .....	7

The results of the laboratory examinations on these samples are as under:—

*Ice-Cream.*

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Methylene Blue Reduction Test	14	1	2	nil
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
Presumptive Coliform Test .....	12		2	
Fæcal Coliform Test .....	nil		1	

*Ice-Lollipops.*

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Presumptive Coliform Test .....	7	nil

OTHER FOODS.

Other foods (including canned foods, bacon, fruit and fruit pulp) condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted in weight to 2 tons 11 cwt.

Food premises of all types (i.e., bakehouses, butchers, fish-mongers, cafés, fish-friers, etc.) were subjected to routine inspection, as and when practicable.

MILK SUPPLY.

*Sampling of Milk.*

Sampling is normally carried out by the Lancashire County Council, but where milk is purveyed in other districts the authorised officers of those districts are empowered to take samples. In the latter event, a copy of the report on sample is usually forwarded to this Department. Details of samples taken during the year are as under:—

TEST	RESULT.		SAMPLE TAKEN BY				
	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Auden- shaw UDC.	Denton UDC.	Droyls- den UDC.	Lancs. CC.	Man- chester CBC.
Methylene Blue .	47	3	—	—	8	28	14
Bacillus Coli .....	16	4	—	—	9	11	—
Phosphatase .....	30	2	—	—	—	18	14
Bacillus Tuberculosis	9	2	2	1	—	8	—
Total ...	102	11	2	1	17	65	28



A total of 62 samples was taken. One of the two samples shown above as being positive to the *Bacillus Tuberculosis* examination was taken by the Lancashire County Council and the other by the Denton Urban District Council. Both samples consisted of milk from a local "Accredited" herd. As the producer's licence is issued by the County Council, that Authority undertook the necessary procedure and placed the matter in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The result is not yet to hand.

#### *Local Conditions.*

The district possesses five dairy farms, two of which produce "Accredited" milk. The number of milk purveyors (including milk shops and excluding cow-keepers) is 43. Periodical visits are made to such premises.

Licences issued during the year:—

	Bottling	Distribution
1. Tuberculin-tested milk .....	2	2
2. Accredited milk .....	—	3
	Pasteurising Plants	Retail Distributors
3. Pasteurisation .....	1	3

The producers' licences in respect of item (2) above are issued by the County Council.

#### SAMPLING OF OTHER FOODS AND DRUGS.

This work is administered by the County Council.



# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Visits re	No. of Visits
Structural defects .....	694
Water Supply .....	11
Drainage, closets, etc. ....	256
Filthy and verminous premises .....	15
Other insect pests .....	27
Defective paving of yards, courts and passages .....	7
Dustbins .....	501
Accumulations of refuse, etc. ....	9
Animals improperly kept .....	7
Refuse collection, salvage, refusal disposal, etc. ...	161
Rats and mice .....	21
Schools .....	5
Shops .....	16
Factories .....	56
Outworkers .....	55
Stables and piggeries .....	8
Cases of infectious disease .....	30
Dairies and food premises of all types .....	163
Slaughterhouses .....	36
Overcrowding .....	7
Smoke abatement .....	30
Tents, vans and sheds .....	6
Snow clearance, etc. ....	18
Miscellaneous .....	69
<hr/>	
Total ...	2,208

## NOTICES SERVED.

	SERVED.		COMPLIED WITH		
	Informal.	Statutory.	Informal.	By owner.	In default Statutory.
Public Health and Housing Acts ...	289	93	217	52	26
Factories Act .....	12	nil	13	nil	nil
Food and Drugs Act .....	12	nil	11	nil	nil
Total .....	313	93	241	52	26





